

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 /064 W

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R 301051Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6697

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

DIA WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND ELECTIONS

REF: BANGKOK 12082

1. KRIANGKAMON LAOHAPHAIROT, 23, A FOURTH-YEAR CHULALONGKON UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENT BECAME THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) JUNE 28. KRIANGKAMON HAS APPARENTLY CALLED OFF THE PROPOSED NSCT ANTI-AMERICAN JULY 4 DEMONSTRATION AT THE EMBASSY (REFTEL). IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, WHAT HIS IMPACT ON THE NSCT WILL BE. KRIANGKAMON HAS SOME ACTIVIST CREDENTIALS AND IS REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO NSCT DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS PHINIT CHARUSOMBAT, A LEADING ACTIVIST IN NSCT CIRCLES. ALTHOUGH PHINIT'S POSITION WAS ALSO ON THE BLOCK, THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FAILED TO PICK A REPLACEMENT. PHINIT THUS RETAINS THE JOB FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

2. COMMENT. THE NSCT IS IN THE MIDST OF INTERNAL STRIFE BETWEEN MODERATES AND ACTIVISTS OVER DIRECTION
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AND GOALS. KRIANGKAMON'S SELECTION MAY NOT SOLVE

THE PROBLEM OF GOALS, GIVEN HIS ACTIVIST PROPENSITIES.
HIS SELECTION, HOWEVER, WAS AT LEAST COUNTER TO THE
REAL POSSIBILITY THAT CHULALONGKON UNIVERSITY MIGHT
PULL OUT OF THE NSCT. (REFTEL) THE NSCR IS STILL THE FOREMOST
ORGANIZATION IN THE THAI STUDENT MOVEMENT, AND VARIOUS
GROUPS CONTINUE TO COMPETE FOR INFLUENCE OVER IT (SEE
BANGKOK'S A-182 OF 5 JULY 1974).
WHITEHOUSE

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